

HAMBASTEGI

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRANIAN REFUGEES



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April 15, 2002

Condemn Massacre of Palestinian Refugees in Jenin



The Jenin refugee camp has been the latest scene of the Israeli government's war against the Palestinian people. Jenin is a 1 square km camp in the West Bank established in 1953 with 13,000 refugees, half of whom are under 18 years of age. The camp has been heavily shelled, bulldozers have indiscriminately demolished homes with people inside them, and much of the camp's water supply and electricity have been cut off. While the exact numbers of those killed are unknown, it is clear that hundreds have been shot, executed, buried under the rubble of their homes, used as human shields, and many wounded have been left to die bleeding on the streets while ambulances have been denied access. Males aged 15 to 50 who have been unable to escape the carnage have reportedly either been arrested or killed. Horror

stories continue to emerge from survivors, including that corpses have been bulldozed into mass graves and others are being removed from the area by the Israeli military. Many of the camp's residents have fled, while several thousand, mainly women and children, remain trapped in the camp.

The Israeli government's attack on Jenin camp is nothing short of a massacre. The International Federation of Iranian Refugees strongly condemns this war crime and crime against humanity of the Israeli government and Ariel Sharon. The Israeli

with the Israeli state. Only the establishment of a Palestinian state can bring about peace and security in the Middle East and create conditions for the elimination of Islamic terrorism in the region.

The war on the Palestinian people, including refugees, must cease immediately. This can only be done with the intervention of progressive people in Israel, the Palestinian territories as well as throughout the world. IFIR calls on groups and individuals to exert pressure on the Israeli and USA governments and defend the

territories.

3. Condemnation of the Israeli government and the prosecution of Ariel Sharon as a war criminal.

4. Condemnation of the assassination of Israeli civilians by Islamic terrorists.

5. Open borders and the right to asylum for Palestinians seeking protection.

6. A right of return for Palestinian refugees.

Send letters of protest to:

* Ariel Sharon
Office of the Prime Minister
Fax: +972 2 566 4838
Email: pm@gov.il

* Binyamin Ben-Eliezer
Ministry of Defense
E-mail: sar@mod.gov.il
Fax: +972-3-696-27-57

* Mary Robinson
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
webadmin.hchr@unog.ch
Fax: +41 22 917 9012

* Romano Prodi
European Commission
romano.prodi@cec.eu.int

* George Bush
The White House
president@whitehouse.gov
Fax: +1-202 456 2461



government's attacks and the Islamists' suicide bombings and killings of innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians have pushed the Middle East to the brink of an all-out war; the responsibility for this situation, however, lies firstly

Palestinian people and refugees. Demand:

1. An end to the Israeli government war on the Palestinian people and refugees.

2. An immediate withdrawal of Israel from all occupied

Israeli Government Slaughter of Palestinians must end now!

Oppose Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill

Maryam Namazie

The UK Nationality, Immigration and Asylum bill was published on Friday 12 April by Home Secretary, David Blunkett. If it is passed in parliament and becomes law, it will mean that:

- * Child and adult asylum seekers will face induction centres, accommodation centres and removal centres (sterilised names for segregation centres, ghettoisation and concentration camps).
- * Child asylum seekers will not be allowed to attend schools or nurseries outside the centre.
- * Asylum seekers will continue to live on the poverty line and in destitution.
- * Children born in the UK can be deported if their



parents entered the country unlawfully.

* Asylum applicants will no longer be able to appeal the direction orders given to deport them from the UK, and there will be moves to stop multiple adjournments.

* Opportunities for judicial review will be diminished.

* A deportation order can be served and removal directions set on the same day that an asylum claim is made, or any time afterwards.

* The maximum jail term for those convicted of harbouring (including providing refuge to

those 'failed' asylum seekers facing deportation back to persecution) or trafficking 'illegal immigrants' will increase from six months to 14 years.

* Travel operators will face a new "right to carry" scheme, where they will have to obtain clearance for passengers before they begin their journeys.

And the list goes on and on...

These draconian measures have nothing to do with creating an 'efficient, fast and trusted' asylum process as claimed by David Blunkett, but everything to do with further criminalising asylum seekers, restricting the right to asylum and protection from persecution, and strengthening fortress Britain. These measures also

seriously undermine established civil rights principles in this country, will further ghettoise immigrants and asylum seekers, prevent their integration and create double rights standards.

The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum bill is not yet law. Oppose the bill by faxing members of parliament. Use Faxyourmp.com which can be accessed from the left hand frame at: <http://www.ncadc.org.uk/>.

*** Picture of Demonstration in Birmingham against Home Office for recent suicide of Iranian asylum Mohsen Amri who killed himself because of their refusal of his asylum claim and request for work authorisation.**

END the DISPERSAL, DESTITUTION and DEPORTATION of ASYLUM SEEKERS NOW!

Demonstrate 22 JUNE 2002

Trafalgar Square

2nd Anniversary of the deaths of 58 Chinese people in Dover and last day of International Refugee Week endorsed by the International Federations of Iranian and Iraqi Refugees - UK.

JOIN CAMPAIGN

Sample Protest Letter

UNHCR Ankara
Sancak Mah., 12.
Cadde 212 Sokak No.3,
6550 Cankaya, Ankara,
Turkey; Fax: +90 312-
4412173;Turan@Unhcr.Ch

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned,
condemn the inhuman
situation and rightlessness of
Iranian, Iraqi and Afghan

refugees and refugee
claimants in Turkey and the
UN High Commissioner for
Refugees' (UNHCR)
treatment and performance
vis-à-vis thousands of
refugees and claimants in
Turkey. We demand that the
UNHCR 1. Recognise the
right to asylum for all those
fleeing Iran, Iraq and
Afghanistan, especially
women and children; 2.
Recognise Iraq, Iran and
Afghanistan as unsafe
countries; 3. Immediately re-
open and review all closed
case files; 4. Improve the

determination procedures,
including the disclosure of the
reasons for rejection,
increasing the number of
appeals and interviews and
expediting reviews; 5.
Provide basic living and health
needs for refugees and
refugee claimants and their
residence in cities away from
the border areas and outside
the reach of terrorist agents;
6. Intervene resolutely
against deportations. The
UNHCR is responsible for
the threats to the lives and
safety of deportees; 7.
Immediately resettle those
recognised as refugees to a
safe third country, including
those Iranians who have fled

Iraqi Kurdistan for fear of
their lives and the inactivity
of the UNHCR offices in
Northern Iraq; and 8.
Recognise the rights of
refugees and claimants to
protest.

Signed: Name, Organisation
(if any), Country

Copies of letters can be sent
to: UNHCR Geneva, UNHCR,
HQPRO 2, Case Postale 2500,
CH-1211 Geneva 2 Depot,
Switzerland; Fax: +41-22-739-
7353; E-mail: Hqpr00@Unhcr.Ch
and IFIR, P. O. Box 27236,
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53; ifir@ukonline.co.uk; http://
www.hambastegi.org

Turkish Government Must Release Detained Asylum Seekers

On April 12, 2002, the Turkish
police detained 185 'illegal'
migrants in eastern Turkey.
Paramilitary police detained
74 people and in a separate
operation, detained another
111 in the eastern Anatolian
province of Van. Though the
detained are being deemed
'illegal' immigrants, they are
in actuality mostly Iraqi,
Iranian and Afghan asylum
seekers attempting to reach
safety. The 185 are at serious

risk of being deported to
persecution. The Turkish
authorities have stepped up
arrests and deportations of
asylum seekers as a result of
European government
pressure to halt the flow of
asylum seekers.

The International Federation
of Iranian Refugees (IFIR)
calls on the Turkish
government to release those
detained, cease all

deportation proceedings and
provide the asylum seekers
with access to refugee
determination procedures.

IFIR also calls on the United
Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR) to
intervene and interview the
detained in order to process
their claims. Those fleeing
Iraq, Northern Iraq, Iran and
Afghanistan must be granted
protection.

Visit IFIR site for latest
international refugee
news, urgent actions and
press releases:

www.hambastegi.org

Asylum is a
Right not a
Privilege

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